

## **Minutes of the South Dakota**

### **Advisory Council on Aging**

**Thursday, January 12, 2017**

The Advisory Council on Aging meeting was held via conference call on January 12, 2017.

Present: Gerald Beninga, Erik Gaikowski, Carol Cameron, Ruth Thomas, Jen Porter, Gale Walker. Other attendees included the Department of Social Services Cabinet Secretary Lynne Valenti, and Marilyn Kinsman.

Members Absent: Dick Palmer and Donna Seaton

Gerald Beninga called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM (CST).

Marilyn Kinsman provided an update of the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver operated by the Division of Adult Services and Aging. Marilyn shared that the Waiver Renewal has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with a retroactive effective date of October 1, 2016. This change means that chore services and the expansion of the specialized medical equipment definition to allow for a wider range of medical equipment, including assistive technology services, are now available for consumers served by the waiver. Consumers who live at home will get to keep more of their money to pay for expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, clothing, and food with the approved change to the standard income allowance and the earned income allowance for a consumer residing in an assisted living center is \$75 which helps benefit consumers residing in ALs who work. These improvements to the waiver will help our consumers remain in their own homes or communities as opposed to receiving institutional care.

Lynne Valenti advised of the Governor's reorganization plan that will establish a new Division of Long Term Services and Supports within the Department of Human Services. The current Division of Adult Services and Aging in the Department of Social Services (excluding the Victims' Services and Crime Victims' Compensation Programs) and part of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Human Services will be combined in the new Division of Long Term Services and Supports. The purpose of the reorganization is to create a more integrated approach to long term services and supports delivery in South Dakota. Demographic changes in future years will result in significant increases to the elder and disabled elder populations. Today, people with physical disabilities who need state assistance with long term services and supports receive services through the Department of Human Services. People with age

related disabilities get assistance from the Department of Social Services. Combining these services into one department will help streamline and align services. It is also consistent with other states - 41 states have made similar organizational changes as has the federal government.

The change will be effective in April, 2017, or 90 days following Governor Daugaard's signing of the Executive Order. No one will lose their job as a result of the reorganization. In addition to Adult Services and Aging staff, four staff from Provider Reimbursement and Audits will move from the Kneip building to Hillview Plaza. Moving forward, DHS will form a steering committee comprised of key stakeholders. Yvette Thomas will return to State government as the Director of Long Term Services and Supports.

Meeting adjourned.